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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since no new claims or issues are presented and the only claim amendments involve wording changes understood as placing the remaining rejected claims into condition for allowance.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claims 1,2, and 6-25 are all of the claims pending in the present Application. Claims 2, 7-11, 17, 22, and 23 are allowed.

In the latest Office Action, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 07-160203 to Satoru et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,339,696 to Chan et al. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Chan, further in view of US Patent 6,144,358 to Narayanaswamy et al. Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 5,075,686 to Shigemura. Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Shigemura, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,144,296 to Ishida et al. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Ishida, further in view of Narayanaswamy.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

As disclosed and described by, for example, claim 1, the present invention is directed to a vehicle-mounted apparatus. A first panel includes a first display on a front surface thereof, a back surface of the first panel being substantially directly mountable onto a surface of a vehicle and affixed thereto in a manner that the first display is viewable by a user. A

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second panel includes a second display, the second panel being openable and closeable with respect to the first display about a side thereof as a first axis.

Advantages of the present invention over prior art configurations include that it provides a display/control apparatus that minimizes space and reduces complexity for the control switching.

Moreover, relative to the device taught in Satoru, the present invention provides a simple mounting technique (i.e., substantially directly to the surface) that does not need an expensive and complex motor-driven linkages and mechanism. Additionally, in an exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a control panel on the back face of the second panel, thereby allowing more space on each panel to be devoted to the display function and, in one exemplary embodiment, provides a display configuration in which a portion of the first display can be left uncovered when the second panel is in the closed position, thereby allowing the exposed portion of the first panel to serve as a small display area even when the panels are fully closed, relative to each other.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner alleges that Satoru anticipates claims 1 and 13 and, when modified by Chan, renders obvious claim 6, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claim 12, when modified by Shigemura, renders obvious claim 21, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claims 24 and 25, when modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claims 14-16, when modified by Ishida, renders obvious claims 18 and 19, and, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claim 20.

Relative to claims 1 and 13, Applicants submit that the rejection, now ripe for appeal, still fails to adequately explained how it can reasonably be considered that the panel in primary reference Satoru is being interpreted so that it satisfies the description of being "substantially directly mountable onto a surface."

The Examiner seems to consider that the rationale presented in the top paragraph on page 9 of the Office Action (e.g., "... that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a simple mounting technique) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)....") explains his position,

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Applicants submit that such rationale does not properly address the deficiency in the rejection that the cited reference does not satisfy the plain meaning of the claim language.

However, in an attempt to expedite prosecution and avoid an Appeal, Applicants have further clarified the language of independent claims 1 and 13 and believe all claims are now allowable, particularly in view of the deficiency in the rejection currently of record.

That is, turning to the clear language of the claims, in Satoru there is no teaching or suggestion of: "... first panel including a first display on a front surface thereof, a back surface of said first panel being substantially directly mountable onto a surface of a vehicle and affixed thereto in a manner that said first display is viewable by a user", as required by claim 1, and claim 13 has similar language.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 6, 12-16, 18-21, and 24-25 are clearly patentable over Satoru for this reason alone.

However, to address the Examiner's position beginning in the final paragraph on page 9 of the Office Action, wherein the Examiner explains that he considers secondary references Narayanaswamy and by Shigemura as analogous art because of the details of the mechanism involved in these two secondary references, Applicants submit that these details are elements in the combination of the solution described in these references. These details are not an articulation of the problem being addressed by the present inventors.

The Examiner's position overlooks the reality that neither of these two secondary references are reasonably related to the vehicle display device of the present invention. Narayanaswamy clearly addresses a portable electronic device and Shigemura clearly addresses the environment of an office apparatus such as a facsimile or copier. The Examiner's position improperly attempts to consider the design details of these two secondary references as abstract ideas that can be freely incorporated into any other problem, scenario, or design environment.

This is the reason that case law holds that the problem being solved be similar before the reference is analogous art. Under the Examiner's understanding, everything would become inherently obvious, since the motivation to modify a primary reference with a missing design detail would become a simple circular argument that one would thereby have achieved the benefit of having made the modification.

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III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

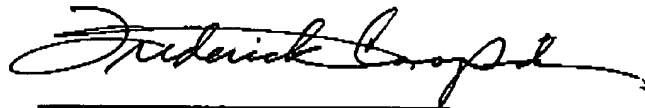
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1,2, and 6-25, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

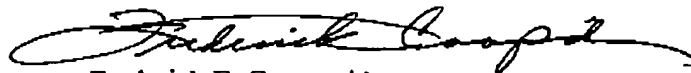
8/25/06

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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner L. Shapiro on August 25, 2006.



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